

MER

- Sometimes towards heav'n, and the full blazing Sun,
Which now far high in his meridian tow'r. *Milton.*
2. Extended from North to South.
Compare the meridian line afforded by magnetical needles
with one mathematically drawn, and observe the variation of
the needle, or its declination from the true meridian line. *Boyle.*
3. Raised to the highest point.
- MERIDIONAL. *adj.* [meridional, French.]
1. Southern.
In the southern coast of America or Africa, the southern
point varieth toward the land, as being disposed that way by
the meridian or proper hemisphere. *Brown's Vulgar Errours.*
2. Southerly; having a southern aspect.
All offices that require heat, as kitchens, stillatories, and
stoves, would be meridianal. *Wotton's Architect.*
- MERIDIONALITY. *n. f.* [from meridianal.] Position in the
South; aspect toward the South.
- MERIDIONALLY. *adv.* [from meridianal.] With a southern
aspect.
The Jews, not willing to lie as their temple stood, do
place their bed from North to South, and delight to sleep
meridionally. *Brown's Vulgar Errours, b. ii.*
- MERIT. *n. f.* [meritum, Latin; meritis, French.]
1. Desert; excellence deserving honour or reward.
You have the captives; use them
As we shall find their merits and our safety
May equally determine. *Shakespeare, King Lear.*
She deem'd I well deserv'd to die,
And made a merit of her cruelty. *Dryden.*
Rofcommon, not more learn'd than good,
With manners gen'rous as his noble blood;
To him the wit of Greece and Rome was known,
And ev'ry author's merit but his own. *Pope.*
She valu'd nothing less
Than titles, figure, shape, and dress;
That merit should be chiefly plac'd
In judgment, knowledge, wit, and taste. *Swift.*
2. Reward deserved.
Those laurel groves, the merits of thy youth,
Which thou from Mahomet didst greatly gain,
While bold assertor of refistless truth,
Thy sword did godlike liberty maintain. *Prior.*
3. Claim; right.
As I am studious to promote the honour of my native
country, I put Chaucer's merits to the trial, by turning some
of the Canterbury tales into our language. *Dryden.*
When a point hath been well examined, and our own
judgment settled, after a large survey of the merits of the
cause, it would be a weakness to continue fluttering. *Watts.*
- TO MERIT. *v. a.* [meritis, French.]
1. To deserve; to have a right to claim any thing as deserved.
Amplify have merited of me, of all
Th' infernal empire. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. x.*
A man at best is incapable of meriting any thing from
God. *South's Sermons.*
2. To deserve; to earn: it is used generally of good, but some-
times of ill.
Whatever jewels I have merited, I am sure I have re-
ceived none, unless experience be a jewel; that I have pur-
chased at an infinite rate. *Shakespeare, Merry Wives of Windsor.*
If such rewards to vanquish'd men are due,
What prize may Nilus from your bounty claim,
Who merited the first rewards, and fame? *Dryden.*
- MERITORIOUS. *adj.* [meritorius, Fr. from merit.] Deserving of
reward; high in desert.
Instead of so great and meritorious a service, in bringing all
the Irish to acknowledge the king for their liege, they did
great hurt. *Spenser on Ireland.*
The war that hath such a foundation will not only be re-
puted just, but holy and meritorious. *Raleigh's Essays.*
A most sufficient means of redemption and salvation, by
the satisfactory and meritorious death and obedience of the
incarnate Son of God, Jesus Christ, God blessed for ever.
Bishop Sanderson.
This is not only the most prudent, but the most meritorious
charity, which we can practice. *Addison's Spect.*
- MERITORIOUSLY. *adv.* [from meritorious.] In such a manner
as to deserve reward.
He carried himself meritoriously in foreign employments
in time of the interdict, which held up his credit among the
patriots. *Wotton.*
- MERITORIOUSNESS. *n. f.* [from meritorious.] The act or state
of deserving well.
There was a full persuasion of the high meritoriousness of
what they did; but still there was no law of God to ground
it upon, and consequently it was not confidence. *South.*
- MERITOR. *n. f.* [ocillum, Lat.] A kind of play. *Ans.*
- MERLIN. *n. f.* A kind of hawk.
Not yielding over to old age his country delights; he was
at that time following a merlin. *Sidney.*

MER

- ME'RMALD. *n. f.* [mer, the sea, and maid.] A sea woman; an
animal with a woman's head and fish's tail.
I'll drown more sailors than the mermaid shall. *Shakespeare.*
Thou remembrest,
Since once I sat upon a promontory,
And heard a mermaid on a dolphin's back
Uttering such dulcet and harmonious breath,
That the rude sea grew civil at her song.
Did sense persuade Ulysses not to hear
The mermaid's songs, which so his men did please,
That they were all persuaded, through the ear,
To quit the ship and leap into the seas?
Few eyes have escaped the picture of a mermaid: Horace
his monster, with woman's head above and fishy extremity
below, answers the shape of the ancient syrens that attempt-
ed upon Ulysses. *Brown's Vulgar Errours, b. v.*
- MERMAID'S TRUMPET. *n. f.* A kind of fish. *Ans.*
- MERRILY. *adv.* [from merry.]
1. Gaily; civilly; cheerfully; with mirth; with gaiety; with
laughter.
Merrily, merrily, shall we live now,
Under the blossom that hangs on the bough. *Shakespeare.*
When men come to borrow of your masters, they ap-
proach sadly, and go away merrily. *Shakespeare, Timon of Athens.*
You have ended my business, and I will merrily accompany
you home. *Shakespeare's Coriolanus.*
A paisan of France thinks of no more than his coarse
bread and his onions, his canvas clothes and wooden shoes,
labours contentedly on working days, and dances or plays
merrily on holidays. *Temple's Misc.*
- Merrily sing, and sport, and play,
For 'tis Oria's nuptial day. *Granville.*
- ME'RRIMAKE. *n. f.* [merry and make.] A festival; a meeting
for mirth.
Thenot now nis the time of merrymake,
Nor Pan to herie, nor with love to play,
Sike mirth in May is meetest for to make,
Or Summer shade, under the cocked hay. *Spenser's Puff.*
The knight did not forbear,
Her honest mirth and pleasure to partake,
But when he saw her gibe, and toy, and gear,
And pass the bounds of modest merrymake,
Her dalliance he despised. *Fairy Queen, b. ii.*
- TO ME'RRIMAKE. *v. a.* To feast; to be jovial.
With thee 'twas Marian's dear delight
To moid all day, and merrymake at night. *Gay's Pastorals.*
- ME'RRIMENT. *n. f.* [from merry.] Mirth; gaiety; cheerfulness;
laughter.
Who when they heard that piteous strained voice,
In haste forsook their rural merriment. *Fairy Queen, b. i.*
A number of merriments and jests, wherewith they have
pleasantly moved much laughter at our manner of serving
God. *Hooker, b. v.*
- Merriment it was the found
Of riot and ill-managed merriment. *Milton.*
- ME'RRINESS. *n. f.* [from merry.] Mirth; merry disposition.
The title shall give us cause to climb in the merriness. *Shakespeare.*
- MERRY. *adj.*
1. Laughing; loudly cheerful; gay of heart.
They drank and were merry with him. *Gen. xlii. 34.*
By the vine languisheth, all the merry-hearted sigh. *Ips. xxiv.*
Some that are of an ill and melancholy nature, incline the
company into which they come to be sad and ill-disposed;
and others that are of a jovial nature, do dispose the com-
pany to be merry and cheerful. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*
Man is the merriest species of the creation; all above and
below him are serious. *Addison.*
2. Causing laughter.
You kill'd her husband, and for that vile fault
Two of her brothers were condemn'd to death;
My hand cut off, and made a merry jest. *Shakespeare.*
3. Prosperous.
In my small pinnacle I can sail,
Contemning all the bluffing roar;
And running with a merry gale,
With friendly stars my safety seek,
Within some little winding creek,
And see the storm ashore. *Dryden.*
- To make MERRY. To junket; to be jovial.
They trod the grapes and made merry, and went into the
house of their God. *Jude, ix. 27.*
A fox 'py'd a bevy of jolly, gossiping wenches making
merry over a dish of pullets. *Strange.*
- MERRY-ANDREW. *n. f.* A buffoon; a zany; a jack-pudding.
He would be a statesman because he is a buffoon; as if
there went no more to the making of a counsellor than the
faculties of a merry-andrew or tumbler. *Le Strange.*
- The first who made the experiment was a merry-an-
drew. *Spectator, No. 599.*
- MERRY-THOUGHT.

MES

- ME'RYTHOUGHT. *n. f.* [merry and thought.] A forked bone
on the body of fowls; so called because boys and girls pull
in play at the two sides, the longest part broken off betoken-
ing priority of marriage.
Let him not be breaking merrythoughts under the table with
my cousin. *Eachard's Contempt of the Clergy.*
- MESERACK. *n. f.* [μεσάρακον; mesarack, Fr. analogy re-
quires it mesarack.] Belonging to the mylentery.
It taketh leave of the permanent parts at the mouths of the
meseracks, and accompanieth the inconvertible portion into
the siege. *Brown's Vulgar Errours.*
- The most subtle part of the chyle passeth immediately into
the blood by the absorbent vessels of the guts, which discharge
themselves into the meserack veins. *Arbutnot.*
- ME'RSION. *n. f.* [mersio, Lat.] The act of sinking, or thrust-
ing over head. *Ans.*
- MESSEMS, impersonal verb. [me and seems, or it seems to me:
for this word it is now too common to use methinks or me-
thought, an ungrammatical word.] I think; it appears to me;
methinks.
Alas, of ghosts I hear the gaffly cries;
Yet there, messems, I hear her singing loud. *Sidney.*
Messem'd by my tide a royal maid,
Her dainty limbs full softly down did lay. *Fairy Queen.*
To that general subjection of the land messems that the
custom or tenure can be no bar nor impeachment. *Spenser.*
- ME'SENTERY. *n. f.* [μεσεντερion; mesenter, Fr.] That round
which the guts are convolved.
When the chyle passeth through the mesentery, it is mixed
with the lymph. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*
- MESENTERICK. *adj.* [mesenterique, French, from mesentery.]
Relating to the mesentery.
They are carried into the glands of the mesentery, receiving
a fine lymph from the lymphatic ducts, which dilates this
chylous fluid, and scours its containing vessels, which, from
the mesenteric glands, unite in large channels, and pass di-
rectly into the common receptacle of the chyle. *Chyne.*
- MESH. *n. f.* [meshe, Dutch; make, old French: it were
therefore better written, as it is commonly pronounced, mesh.]
The interstice of a net; the space between the threads of a
net.
The drovers hang square nets athwart the tide, thorough
which the shoal of pichard passing, leave many behind en-
tangled in the meshes. *Carew's Survey of Cornwall.*
Such a hare is madness the youth, to skip o'er the meshes of
good counsel the cripple. *Shakespeare, Merchant of Venice.*
He spreads his subtle nets from sight,
With twinkling glazes to betray
The larks that in the meshes light. *Dryden.*
With all their mouths the nerves the spirits drink,
Which through the cells of the fine strainers sink:
These all the channel'd fibres ev'ry way,
For motion and sensation, still convey:
The greatest portion of th' arterial blood,
By the close structure of the parts withstood,
Whose narrow meshes stop the grosser food. *Blackmore.*
- TO MESH. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To catch in a net; to en-
snare.
The flies by chance mesh't in her hair,
From her clear eyes, rich jewels were,
They so like diamonds shone. *Dryden.*
- ME'SHY. *adj.* [from mesh.] Reticulated; of net-work.
Some build his house, but thence his issue barre,
Some make his meshy bed, but leave his rest. *Carew.*
Caught in the meshy snare, in vain they beat
Their idle wings. *Thomson.*
- ME'SLIN. *n. f.* [from mesler, French, to mix; or rather cor-
ruptly pronounced for mescellane. See MASLIN.] Mixed corn:
as, wheat and rye.
What reason is there which should but induce, and there-
fore much less enforce, us to think, that care of old diffimi-
litude between the people of God and the heathen nations
about them, was any more the cause of forbidding them to
put on garments of sundry stuff, than of charging them withal
not to sow their fields with meslin. *Hooker, b. iv.*
- If work for the thresher ye mind for to have,
Of wheat and of meslin unthresh'd go save. *Tusser.*
- MESOLIV. *n. f.* [μεσολιευς.] A precious stone, black,
with a streak of white in the middle. *Diad.*
- MESOLOGARITHMS. *n. f.* [μεσολογος, λογος, and αριθμος.]
The logarithms of the sines and tangents, so denominated
by Kepler. *Harris.*
- MESOMELAS. *n. f.* [μεσομελας.] A precious stone with a black
vein parting every colour in the midst. *Bailey.*
- ME'SPIS. *n. f.* [probably misprinted for mesprise; mespris, Fr.]
Contempt; scorn.
Mammon was much displeas'd, yet note he chose
But bear the rigour of his bold mesprise,
And thence him forward led, him further to entice. *Fairy Queen, b. ii.*

MET

- MESS. *n. f.* [meis, old French; messo, Italian; missus, Latin;
mess, Gothick; mere, Saxon, a dish.] A dish; a quantity
of food sent to table together.
The bounteous hufwife, nature, on each bust
Lays her full mess before you. *Shakespeare, Timon of Athens.*
Now your traveller,
He and his toothpick at my worship's mess. *Shakespeare.*
I had as lief you should tell me of a mess of porridge.
Shakespeare's Merry Wives of Windsor.
- Herbs, and other country messes,
Which the neat-handed Phillis dresses.
Had either of the crimes been cooked to their palates,
they might have changed messes. *Decay of Piety.*
From him he next receives it thick or thin,
As pure a mess almost as it came in. *Pope.*
- TO MESS. *v. n.* To eat; to feed.
- ME'SSAGE. *n. f.* [message, Fr.] An errand; any thing commit-
ted to another to be told to a third.
She doth display
The gate with pearls and rubies richly dight,
Through which her words so wise do make their way,
To bear the message of her spright. *Spenser, Sonnet 81.*
May one, that is a herald and a prince,
Do a fair message to his kingly ears! *Shakespeare.*
She is fair, and, fairer than that word,
Of wondrous virtues; sometimes from her eyes
I did receive fair speechless messages. *Shakespeare.*
Gently hast thou told
Thy message, which might else in telling wound,
And in performing end us. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. xi.*
Let the minister be low, his interest inconsiderable,
the word will suffer for his sake; the message will still find recep-
tion according to the dignity of the messenger. *South.*
- The welcome message made, was soon receiv'd;
'Twas to be with'd and hop'd, but scarce believ'd. *Dryden.*
- ME'SSENGER. *n. f.* [messager, French.] One who carries an
errand; one who comes from another to a third; one who
brings an account or foretoken of any thing; an harbinger;
a forerunner.
Came running in, much like a man dismaid,
A messenger with letters, which his message said. *Fa. Qu.*
You grey lines,
That fret the clouds, are messengers of day. *Shakespeare.*
Run after that same peevish messenger,
The duke's man. *Shakespeare.*
The earl dispatched messengers one after another to the king,
with an account of what he heard and believed he saw, and
yet thought not fit to stay for an answer. *Clarendon.*
Joy touch'd the messenger of heav'n; he stay'd
Entranc'd, and all the blissful haunt survey'd. *Pope.*
- MESSIAH. *n. f.* [from the Hebrew.] The Anointed; the
Christ; the Saviour of the world; the Prince of peace.
Great and publick opposition the magistrates made against
Jesus the man of Nazareth, when he appeared as the Mes-
siah. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*
- MESSFEURS. *n. f.* [Fr. plural of monsieur.] Sirs; gentle-
men.
- ME'SSMATE. *n. f.* [messi and mate.] One who eats at the same
table.
- ME'SSUAGE. *n. f.* [messuagium, law Latin; formed perhaps
message by mistake of the n in court-hand for u, they being
written alike, message from maison, French.] The house and
ground set apart for household uses.
- MET, the preterite and part of meet.
- A set of very well-meaning gentlemen in England, not to
be met with in other countries, take it for granted they can
never be in the wrong so long as they can oppose ministers of
state. *Addison's Freeholder, No. 48.*
- METAGRAMMATISM. *n. f.* [μεταγραμματισμος.]
Anagrammatism, or metagrammatism, is a dissolution of a
name truly written into its letters, as its elements, and a new
connexion of it by artificial transposition, without addition,
subtraction, or change of any letter into different words,
making some perfect sense applicable to the person named.
Camden's Remains.
- METABASIS. *n. f.* [Greek.] In rhetoric, a figure by which
the orator passes from one thing to another. *Diad.*
- METABOLA. *n. f.* [μεταβολη.] In medicine, a change of time,
air, or disease.
- METACARPUS. *n. f.* [μετακαρπιον.] In anatomy, a bone of
the arm made up of four bones, which are joined to the fin-
gers. *Diad.*
- The conjunction is called synarthrosis; as in the joining of
the carpus to the metacarpus, *Wifeman's Surgery.*
- METACARPAL. *adj.* [from metacarpus.] Belonging to the me-
tacarpus. *Diad.*
- It will facilitate the separation in the joint, when you cut
the finger from the metacarpal bone. *Shorpe's Surgery.*
- ME'TAL. *n. f.* [metal, French; metallum, Latin.]
We understand by the term metal a firm, heavy, and hard
substance, opaque, fusible by fire, and concreting again when
16 K
cold